

OXBOW ECO-CENTER

CALENDAR October 2014 THROUGH May 2015

5400 N.E. St. James Drive, Port St. Lucie, FL 34983
(772) 785-5833; www.oxboweco.com; oxbow@stlucieco.org

Visit the center for some free fun activities and check out our cool exhibits.

Center hours are Tuesday through Friday from 12-5pm, Saturday from 10am-5pm.

Trails are open daily from dawn until dusk.

JANUARY 2015 – NATURE’S WONDERS BIG & SMALL

Guided Hikes – Saturday January 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 @ 9:00am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or [www.oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Enjoy a guided hike through the wilds of the Oxbow and be enriched by the biodiversity this preserve has to offer. No RSVP required just show up at 9am ready to hike!

Tai Chi Classes -- *Tai Chi for Health*: Beginner & Intermediate classes: Tuesdays @ 10:30am (Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27) & Fridays @ 9:30am (Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30); ***Tai Chi Yang Form*:** Tuesdays @ 6:30pm & Fridays @ 10:45am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. \$10 per class or \$32 for 4 classes, appropriate for ages 16 and up. RSVP a must. Call 772-785-5833 or [www.oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Tai Chi instructors Hilde and Hector Ruiz-Puyana will lead classes in Tai Chi for Health and Tai Chi Yang Form, designed for everyone, including those who suffer from arthritis, diabetes, osteoporosis, and balance issues.

Special Homeschool Day: “Down on the Farm” —TUESDAY, January 6th, 10:00am -12:00pm for grades K through 12th at the 4-H ZEP Farm in Fort Pierce, RSVP-\$3/ child, 772-785-5833 or [www.oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Students will be learning about where their food comes from, different forms of gardening, how the water cycle plays a key role for life and have an exciting hands-on experience with some of the Farm’s animals. This venue is just north of Okeechobee Road off Kings Highway and is completely outdoors so please wear weather appropriate clothing and closed-toed shoes. The address and directions will be mailed/e-mailed to you upon confirmation. RSVP is a must!

Junior Butterfly Club – Thurs., January 8th @ 1:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, 772-785-5833 or [www.oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Join the Club! Children ages 5 through 15 are invited to join the Oxbow Junior Butterfly Garden Club, which meets monthly to learn the skills of leadership and gardening, while gaining knowledge about butterflies and other wildlife. Annual fee for the club is \$15.

Swamp Tales— Thurs., January 8th @ 3:45pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or [www.oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). For kids who ask those impossible questions like- what animal is the biggest, or smallest, longest or shortest. Join us for this exciting story time as Miss Phyllis reads *Biggest, Strongest, Fastest* by Steve Jenkins. Biggest, Strongest, Fastest is an entertaining, informative introduction to the "world records" held by fourteen members of the animal kingdom. We encourage our young participants to dress in their favorite animal shirt. This free story and activity program is appropriate for ages 3 to 6.

St. Lucie Audubon Society lecture “Ecuador’s Galapagos and Peru’s Machu Picchu” – Thurs., January 8th @ 7:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or [www.oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Sam Fried, of Flights of Fancy Adventures, will give a presentation on the birds and animals in Ecuador’s Cotopaxi National Park, the natural beauty of the Galapagos Islands, and a journey to Peru, showcasing the Inca civilization at world-renowned Machu Picchu. The lecture is FREE and open to the general public.

“Citizen Science Saturday” Series — Sat., January 10th @10:00am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Here’s your chance to learn about wetland delineation with Boyd Gunsalus with the South Florida Water Management District. Wetlands aren’t just recognized by the sight of water. There are many clues, like plant types and water ‘stains’, that let you know you’re at the edge of a wetland even if it’s completely dry. This exciting series will give participants a chance to work and study with local experts on subjects ranging from restoration ecology and plant I.D. to herpetology and skull and tracking identification. Cost is \$10 per course, but if you sign up for multiple courses, you’ll receive a discount. (Classes are free to Oxbow volunteers!) Appropriate for ages 16 & up. RSVP is a must and space is limited, so register early.

Critter Encounter “Uncle Si”— Thurs., January 15th @4:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Don’t let his warts or croaking fool you, this small fellow plays a vital role as an ecological superhero protecting us from pests. Get up close and personal with a true southern gentleman, Oxbow’s very own “Uncle Si” the Southern Toad. This is a free program children ages 5 and up.

Treehouse Time “Big and Small Adventure”— Fri., January 16th @4:00pm “Big and Small Adventure”— ****NEW LOCATION**** Fri., Jan.16th @4:00pm. at the Becker House, Join us for this great adventure and let your imagination transform you into a tiny bug or a giant pine tree. This free program is designed for ages 3-7 with adult supervision and is going to be held for the first time at St. Lucie County’s Becker House located at 3398 Selvitz Road, Fort Pierce.

Art Class “Gelli Printing” – Sat., January 17th @10:00am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, RSVP-\$20/participant (includes all supplies), 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. The Treasure Coast Art Association and Oxbow Eco-Center team up to present this exciting popular jiggling art sensation. Teachers Debbie Perdue and Barbara Fuller will guide you to become print makers by using the Gelli method for cards and other fine pieces of art. Appropriate for ages 10 and up. RSVP a must!

Lecture- “From a Green World to a Wallet Filled with Green” – Sat, Jan.24th @1:30pm FREE-It’s that time again— time to implement your New Year’s resolutions. If one of them is to save more money this year and another to tread more lightly on the Earth, we may be able to help you with both. Learn more about saving a green world while saving more ‘dough,’ by joining SELF’s Executive Director, Doug Coward and SunCool Energy’s David Reidy. The SunCool Energy will be advertising homeowners on the secrets to conserving your personal resources by conserving home energy while also protecting the natural resources of your community. So bring a friend and join us for this FREE enlightening presentation

Bee Keepers Association Lecture – Wed., January 21st @7:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. The Treasure Coast Beekeeper Association (TCBA) is a nonprofit organization that provides education about bees and beekeeping for people of the Treasure Coast. Every month there is a new bee related learning opportunity. This Lecture is FREE and open to the general public.

Jr. Oxbow Explorers “Sneaky Plant Hunters”— Sat., January 24th @10:30am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, \$3 per participant, 772-785-5833 or www.oxboweco.com. The bright colors and the deliciously sticky nectar may not fool people but these ravenous adaptations have lured many an insect to their ultimate demise. Deep in the forests we have some unique carnivorous plants that lie in wait for their next victim. Participants will try their hand at becoming a hungry plant and collecting bugs. Appropriate for children ages 5 and up, \$3 per participant. RSVP a must!

New Volunteer Orientation – Sat, Jan.31st @10am. Meet our staff, seasoned volunteers, and the critters of the Oxbow and learn about how you can help the Oxbow and your community. We’ll start with an orientation to get you familiar with the Oxbow and do a little training on greeting visitors and introducing them to our exhibits and animals.

“Snakes Alive” with Jerry Walls Saturday Jan. 31st @ 1:00pm— R.S.V.P. \$5/participant Calling all reptile

enthusiast Oxbow is hosting “Snakes Alive with Jerry Walls”. Here's your chance to learn more about the snakes that call Florida home as well as see live species from around the world, the safe way! Get up close and personal with these not so slimy fascinating creatures. Learn why snakes play an important role in nature's balance in the food chain. You may not love them when you leave Oxbow after this fun, educational and interactive program but you will respect them for what they are, creatures that are here for several important reasons. Bring your camera for an unforgettable program! This program is appropriate for ages 5 & up and space is limited so RSVP a must!

FEBRUARY 2015 – RESTORING OUR FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS

Guided Hikes – Saturday February 7, 14, 21 & 28@9:00am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Enjoy a guided hike through the wilds of the Oxbow and be enriched by the biodiversity this preserve has to offer. No RSVP required just show up at 9am ready to hike!

Tai Chi Classes -- *Tai Chi for Health*: Beginner & Intermediate classes: Tuesdays @ 10:30am (Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24) & Fridays @ 9:30am (Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27); ***Tai Chi Yang Form*:** Tuesdays @ 6:30pm & Fridays @ 10:45am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. \$10 per class or \$32 for 4 classes, appropriate for ages 16 and up. RSVP a must. Call 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Tai Chi instructors Hilde and Hector Ruiz-Puyana will lead classes in Tai Chi for Health and Tai Chi Yang Form, designed for everyone, including those who suffer from arthritis, diabetes, osteoporosis, and balance issues.

Oxbow's Jr. Home School “Nature's Chemist: How Venoms and Poisons are used in the Wild” –Wed., February 4th @2:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center; Ages 4-6, RSVP-\$3/participant, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Coral snakes, poison ivy and fire ants have something in common. They all use chemicals known as toxins to protect themselves. Students will learn about nature's warning colors. RSVP a must!

Homeschool Hopper Series – Thurs., February 5th @ 10:00am-12:00pm; Ages 7-12, at the Oxbow Eco-Center; **RSVP-\$25/series**. Students must already be pre-registered for the Homeschool Hopper series, a 5-week series at 5 different environmental centers. For more information please call Savannas Preserve State Park at (772) 398-2779.

St. Lucie Audubon Society lecture “Fins and Feathers:” – Thurs., February 5th @7:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. “Fins and Feathers: Why Little Fish Are a Big Deal to Florida's Coastal Water birds.” Please join us as Cameron Jaggard educates us about these small, but crucial fish and their importance to Florida's ecosystems and economy. Forage Fish are small, oily fish that are a critical link in the marine food web, helping turn sunshine into seabirds. As a part of the Forage Fish Initiative, Audubon Florida and Pew recently published a joint report. This report highlights the importance of forage fish as prey for many of Florida's most beloved and well-recognized birds and it offers four recommendations that would help ensure sufficient amounts of baitfish are left in the water to fulfill their role as prey for birds.

Junior Butterfly Club – Thurs., February 12th@1:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Join the Club! Children ages 5 through 15 are invited to join the Oxbow Junior Butterfly Garden Club, which meets monthly to learn the skills of leadership and gardening, while gaining knowledge about butterflies and other wildlife. Annual fee for the club is \$15.

Swamp Tales— Thurs., February 12th@3:45pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Let your imagination run “wild” and have a “novel” adventure at Miss Phyllis' story time. Each month the story changes but the fun never stops! This free story and activity program is appropriate for ages 2 to 6.

“Citizen Science Saturday” Series — Sat., February 14th @10:00am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. This exciting series will give participants a chance to work and study with local experts on subjects ranging from restoration ecology and plant I.D. to herpetology to skull and tracking identification. Cost is \$10 per course, but if you sign up for multiple courses, you’ll receive a discount. (Classes are free to Oxbow volunteers!) Appropriate for ages 16 & up. RSVP is a must and space is limited, so register early.

Bee Keepers Association Lecture – Wed., February 18th @7:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. The Treasure Coast Beekeeper Association (TCBA) is a nonprofit organization that provides education about bees and beekeeping for people of the Treasure Coast. Every month there is a new bee related learning opportunity. This Lecture is FREE and open to the general public.

Critter Encounters “Nick and Nicole” — Thurs., February 19th @4:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Stop by and meet this dynamic duo. Nick the three-striped mud turtle and Nicole the stink-pot turtle are two very common turtles found around your backyard. Watch as Nicole steals Nick’s food and learn about their secretive behaviors. This is a free program for children ages 5 and up.

Treehouse Time “Squishy Wooshy Wetlands”— Fri., February 20th @4:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. What’s green, slimy and breathes through its skin? You guessed it, a frog. Join Miss Marion to investigate who else calls the Oxbow’s squishy wetlands home. This is a free program for children ages 3 to 7 with an adult.

Art Class “Zentangles” —Sat., February 21st @10:00am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, RSVP-\$20/participant (includes all supplies), 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Treasure Coast Art Association teams up with Oxbow to present this fun Zentangle art class. Certified Zentangle Instructor Debbie Perdue will show you how to take a moment to “Zen” and then learn some creative and relaxing patterns that are beautiful and easy to do whenever you get inspired. Cost of the class is \$20 and includes all materials. Appropriate for ages 10 and up. RSVP a must!

MARCH 2015 – TAKING FLIGHT

Guided Hikes – Saturday March 7, 14, 21, & 28 @ 9:00am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Enjoy a guided hike through the wilds of the Oxbow and be enriched with the biodiversity this preserve has to offer. No RSVP required just show up at 9am ready to hike!

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Oxbow’s Jr. Home School “Superhero of the Uplands” – Wed., March 4th @2:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center; Ages 4-6, RSVP-\$3/participant, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Miss Marion will be taking students on a gopher tortoise adventure. RSVP a must!

Home School Day at the Oxbow “Superhero of the Uplands” – Thurs., March 5th @10:00am at the Oxbow Eco-Center; Ages 7-12, RSVP-\$3/participant, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. As the fires rage along the edge of the forest this reliable reptile remains steadfast in its ability to save over 300 species of animals. Oxbow is dedicating 2015 to the gopher tortoise and we are making big plans to help restore their habitat. Students will be learning about the natural history and importance of the gopher tortoise while hiking to our recently burned and mechanically treated sites. Participants will also

be learning about the conservation of this species because without them our pine flatwoods ecosystem would collapse. RSVP a must!

St. Lucie Audubon Society Lecture— Wildlife Photography” – Thurs., March 5th @ 7:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Amy Marques, an avid professional photographer, will provide a picture show of her best photos taken on various trips throughout her career. Photos include birds and animals seen in their wild habitats. This lecture is FREE and open to the general public.

Jr. Oxbow Explorers “Bird Costume-Making”— March 7th @ 1:30pm– for ages 5 and up, \$5/participant R.S.V.P. a must. Celebrate birds by designing and building your own fabulous bird costume while learning the exceptional skills birds possess. You will be able to show off you costume during a bird parade on March 20th at 4:30 pm and use it again at Oxbow’s Earth Day Wildlife Parade on April 18th. Appropriate for ages 5 and up, \$5 per participant. RSVP a must!

Junior Butterfly Club – Thurs., March 12th@1:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Join the Club! Children ages 5 through 15 are invited to join the Oxbow Junior Butterfly Garden Club, which meets monthly to learn the skills of leadership and gardening, while gaining knowledge about butterflies and other wildlife. Annual fee for the club is \$15.

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Critter Encounter “Bird Feeder Friends”—Thurs., March 19th@4:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Just off Oxbow’s back porch, our hand-made bird feeder attracts many birds on a daily basis. Learn about some of our most beautiful backyard birds and how to attract them to your yard. This is a free program for children ages 5 and up.

Treehouse Time “The Very Hungry Nestling – Fri., March 20th@4:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Flap your wings and chirp your songs as you go on an exciting food-finding mission for your young bird family. This is a free program for children ages 3 to 7 with an adult.

Art Class “Dying Silk Scarves” – Sat., March 21st@10:00am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, RSVP-\$20/participant 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Treasure Coast Art Association teams up with Oxbow to present these wearable pieces of art. Learn several techniques from tie dye to stencils with teacher Barbara Fuller using a silk scarf and silk fabric dyes. Additional scarves will be available for purchase. The cost is \$20 per participant (which includes ALL supplies). RSVP.

APRIL 2015 – LOVELY LEPIDOPTERA

Guided Hikes – Saturday April 4, 11 & 18 (last hike of the season)@9:00am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Enjoy a guided hike through the wilds of the Oxbow and be enriched by the biodiversity this preserve has to offer. No RSVP required just show up at 9am ready to hike!

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Oxbow's Jr. Home School "Birds of a Feather" – Wed., April 1st@2:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center; Ages 4-6, RSVP-\$3/participant, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Students will be searching for species that can be found in the Oxbow woods by playing a fun round of "I Spy Birds" and learning about some their great avian adaptations. RSVP a must!

Home School Day at the Oxbow "Birds of a Feather" – Thurs., April 2nd@10:00am at the Oxbow Eco-Center; Ages 7-12, RSVP-\$3/participant, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Birds come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. It is by nature's design that every part of a bird's body is perfectly adapted to survive and thrive in their native habitat. Join us as we discover the cool features of these amazing creatures and learn what it could be like to be an eagle, duck, cardinal or even a pesky crow. We'll use our new feathers, feet and bills to participate in fun hands-on activities, while learning what birds are adapted to which habitats. RSVP a must!

St. Lucie Audubon Society Lecture "When Eagles Roar" – Thurs., April 2nd@7:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Most people know James Currie as the host of the popular Birding Adventures TV Show. Join James Currie as he tells stories and reads excerpts from his upcoming book "*When Eagles Roar*." James' story begins with his roots in South Africa growing up under Apartheid. His love of wildlife and birds, craving for adventure, and his mischievous roaming freely on Table Mountain, exciting adventures as a game ranger and birding guide, working as the Managing Director of Africa Foundation, and his emotional decision to move to the States to start his own birding TV show, are described in detail in this book. The lecture is FREE and open to the general public.

Junior Butterfly Club – Thurs., April 9th@1:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Join the Club! Children ages 5 through 15 are invited to join the Oxbow Junior Butterfly Garden Club, which meets monthly to learn the skills of leadership and gardening, gaining knowledge about butterflies and other wildlife. Annual fee for the club is \$15.

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"Citizen Science Saturday" Series — Sat., April 11th@10:00am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. At Oxbow 2014-2015 is going to be a great time to become a naturalist or just enhance your Naturalist skills. This exciting 8-part series will give participants a chance to work and study with local experts on subjects ranging from restoration ecology and plant I.D. to herpetology to skull and tracking identification. Cost is \$10 per course, but if you sign up for multiple courses, you'll receive a discount. (Classes are free to Oxbow volunteers!) Appropriate for ages 16 & up. RSVP is a must and space is limited, so register early.

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Critter Encounters “George the Gulf Fritillary”— Thurs., April 16th @4:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Join us as we wander through Oxbow’s butterfly gardens to search for George the Gulf Fritillary and all his winged friends. This is a free program for children ages 5 and up.

Treehouse Time “The Great Caterpillar Hunt”— Fri., April 17th @4:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Join Miss Marion on a caterpillar hunt in the Oxbow’s famous butterfly garden. As you hike the garden you’ll be counting butterflies and naming colors. This is a free program for children ages 3 to 7 with an adult.

Earth Day “It’s Our Planet, It’s Our Time” – Sat., April 18th @ 10:00am to 3:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Back by popular demand our Earth Day Celebration has returned to the Oxbow Eco-Center! Join us to learn about St. Lucie County’s thriving environment, healthy community-based organizations and what we are all doing to help create a sustainable world. This free event has something for everyone, no matter your age. Come out and join our parade, take in some local music, meet Florida’s native wildlife, and get a chance to participate fun hands-on activities with our interactive exhibitors. Appropriate for all ages. No RSVP.